

## WHY WE DO NOT PRAY FOR THE DEAD

Salvation is the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross for every member of the human race. It is the free gift of God to all men, not earned, and not the result of human good work (Ephesians 2:8-9). Salvation is final—it is a privilege of a living person to believe and receive the free gift of eternal life and the salvation of his soul while he is still on earth.

The final destination of a dead person, which can be either heaven or hell, is permanent, irreversible and unalterable. Every person has the opportunity to receive the free gift of salvation while he is alive. Physical death terminates such privileges. The dead don't have a chance to change their situation. They are permanently assigned to their everlasting destination.

Praying for the dead, lighting candles, honoring them with praises, offering flowers (but insulting and mocking them while living) is unreal, heretical and are considered unbiblical teachings.

Many pagan religions honor their dead on certain occasions. The practice did not originate from the Bible. The traditional religion introduced the prayer for the dead only in A.D. 300 but many Eastern religions and Chinese folk religions pray for their dead several thousand years ahead. The dead people have no capacity to hear, pray, or give mass and indulgences offered in their behalf. God does not listen to the prayer of the unbelievers.

God determines the final destination of the dead based on the individual's decision to accept or reject Christ's finished work. No person can change his decision after his physical death.

Our final destiny depends on our own decision now: to believe or reject the finished work of Christ on the cross.

Praying for the dead was designed to increase church revenues through the sales of candles, indulgences, payment for mass, flowers and other gimmicks.

Praying for the dead builds false hope and confidence for life after death. It creates the false expectation that dead men can change their final state. Praying for the dead to change their final state is like asking the president to pardon a criminal already executed by lethal injection \* an entirely useless effort.

Talking to a dead person through prayer is like talking to someone in the telephone when the line is dead. Dead people cannot hear the prayer of the living. They have no capacity to know what is going on earth.

A birthday or anniversary celebration for a dead person is ridiculous since the dead person has ceased to exist. Age is the duration of life in the world and it stops at the moment the person dies. It is stupid to continue counting years, which the dead person did not utilize for living.

God will not hear the prayer for the dead people since they are no longer on earth. God cannot change their final state because His decision is not based on the petition, request or prayer of men. He acts according to His perfect justice and righteousness.

God cannot change the decision He made. He cannot revise the action He made \* He is perfect. His actions and decisions are all based on his perfect integrity. Revision or change is for something imperfect not for the perfect decision of God. Prayer cannot change His perfect decision or action.

## THE HUMAN SOUL

The first real imputation from the justice of God occurs for every member of the human race at the moment of physical birth. God imputes soul life to biological life creating the human life.

Biological life begins at conception and is the means of transmitting the sin nature. Soul life is created by God at the physical birth and imputed as the means of transmitting the human soul. The combination of biological life and soul life becomes a physically alive human being.

The development of the body inside the womb is not a human being with a life of his own until the sovereign God imputes soul life, resulting to human life. Only God has the power to create a human life and no human being is a biological accident. God personally created each one of us. The first imputation occurs when the viable fetus emerges from the womb.

Human life begins when God imputes the breath or spark of life. This spark is called NESHAMAH in Hebrew, and is the same BREATH that God breathed into the nostrils of Adam, whose body God formed of dust from the ground (Genesis 2:7). Soul life always comes in the same way, directly from God, whether to Adam as an adult or to all progeny of Adam as infants.

God gave the spark of life not only to Adam but also individually to each human being (Isaiah 57:16, Job 33:4). God always provides human life in the same way, by imputation and always for the same purpose, for our happiness and blessing.

The human soul comes from the hand of God which is perfect and without blemish but is immediately contaminated by the old sin nature resident in the biological life upon contact at the moment of physical birth. The soul is spiritual, invisible, real but intangible. The human body is material but the human soul is spiritual. Animals are biological creature without souls.

The biological-material body will perish and decay just like all biological things but the soul is absolutely indestructible and permanent. It will continue to exist forever either in heaven or hell.

Nothing can terminate the life of the human soul, not even the most destructive bomb men have invented. The human body can disintegrate and vanish in an intense explosion but the human soul will remain complete without damage.

Eight (8) things that characterize the human soul:

- It is eternal not mortal
- It is permanent not temporal
- It is indestructible by anything
- It is spiritual not material
- It is invisible hidden by a body
- It is the battlefield of the spiritual conflict
- It is the real person behind the physical body
- It has superior sensual ability than the physical senses

The human soul will enjoy the free gift of eternal life in heaven only if that soul volitionally decided to receive the free gift of salvation in Christ. The soul that rejected the finished work of Christ will suffer in hell the eternal in condemnation. Nobody can change the eternal destiny of the soul.

No amount of human good works, devotion, and religious sacrifices can change the condition of the soul in hell. Men are privileged to make decision either to receive or believe in Christ (John 1:11-12, 3:15-16) or to reject the Gospel of Christ and suffer eternally in hell (John 3:18). The souls that rejected the free gift of eternal life earned by Christ in behalf of the entire human race will suffer without mercy. Divine mercy is for those who received the grace of God through their non-meritorious faith in Christ.

As the body develops within the mother's womb, there also develops within its cranial area the format soul. The format soul is the biological life, the material qualities of the developing brain. It consists of the genetic format for mentality, inherited from the genes of both parents.

The Hebrew word NEPHESH often translated as soul or life refers to the soul's fully formed, immaterial essence, which is provided by God at the moment the spark of life is given.

The breath of life transforms the fetus and its format soul into a living soul (Genesis 2:7). The format soul becomes the home for the imputation of the soul life.

If you believe in Christ, the moments your soul departs from your body you will be absent from the body, and stand face to face with the Lord forever (2 Corinthians 5:8). This is the guarantee and the assurance which frees the individual believer from anxiety of insecurity and doubt of his eternal destiny. A saved, regenerated believer is going to heaven because he believed and received the free gift of eternal life while he is still alive on earth.

"Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes has eternal life. (John 6:47). Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me shall live even if dies [physically] (John 11:25).

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